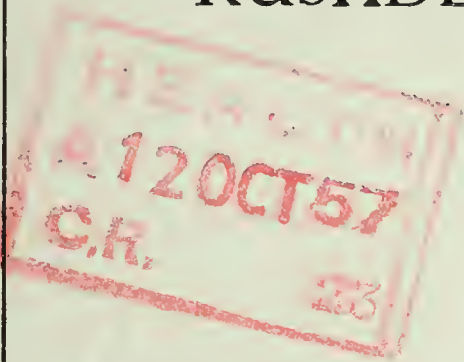


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RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1956



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the
Senior Public Health Inspector

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1956.

Area (in acres)	3,777
Population 1921 (census)	13,511
„ 1931	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,247
„ 1951	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,370
„ 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,580
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,076
„ „ „ „ „ 1931	„	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,827
„ „ „ „ „ 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,834
Rateable Value, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£187,541
Product of a penny rate, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£710

Live Births.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	213	121	92	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	4	4	
					221	125	96	13.32

Stillbirths.								
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					5	4	1	0.30

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	209	109	100	12.60

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	—	
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	nil.

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births :

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	9.04

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...				25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...				nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				nil.
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)				nil.



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Rushden Urban District Council.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLOR A. H. BAILEY (*Chairman*), COUNCILLORS C. GINNS, B. GRAMSHAW, R. R. GRIFFITHS, MRS. W. M. LEAN, MRS. A. U. MUXLOW, C. NORRIS, E. E. PIDD, MRS. D. SHRIVE.

COUNCILLOR E. E. NEWELL, Chairman of the Council, was an *ex-officio* member.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Meat Inspector :

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

B. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

(*Resigned 31/12/56.*)

Public Health Department,
Swanspool,
Wellingborough.

June, 1957.

To The Madam Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Rushden.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1956.

The Vital Statistics for the year are given in Section A. The Birth rate 13.32 per 1,000 of population was slightly less than the previous year when it was 13.34, although in the two years the same number of births were recorded. The difference in rate is due to the slight increase in population. The death rate 12.60 per 1,000 was higher than the previous year when it was 11.29. The Infant mortality rate was 9.04 per 1,000 live births compared with 31.67 in the previous year. For the second year in succession there were no deaths recorded from maternal causes.

Full details concerning the Health Services available are given in Section B.

In Section C proposals concerning the extensions of the sewage works, and the provision of a pumping station and new sewer in the Duck Street area are mentioned. Both these schemes are very necessary and the latter should assist considerably with regard to the prevention of pollution of the brook which runs through the town. The fencing of this brook as it passes through Spencer Park is commendable.

Progress in connection with the Slum Clearance programme is reported in Section D.

Details of food samples taken for examination will be found in Section E and it will be seen that the results of these were satisfactory. Meat inspection requires a considerable amount of time but it will be appreciated how important a service this is to the community. A hundred per cent examination is made of all carcasses.

In Section F, which deals with Infectious Diseases, it will be seen that the number of cases of the more common infectious diseases fell during the year, especially measles, 41 cases occurring compared with 574 in the previous year. It is interesting to note that only one case of Whooping Cough was notified. A case of Typhoid and also Diphtheria occurred. These cases are rare nowadays which speaks highly of advances in preventive medicine and the higher standards of living that exist.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced and this is a great advance in the fight against this disease.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Officers of the Council for information supplied for this report and for their help and assistance throughout the year. I should also like to thank Mr. Ellis for his ever ready help and co-operation and Miss Pearson for her help in compiling this report.

Finally, I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area. The Urban District of Rushden covers 3,777 acres.

Population. The estimated population of Rushden for the year 1956 was 16,580 which is an increase of 20 over the previous year. The natural increase which is the number of births over the number of deaths was 12. The density of population is 4.3 persons per acre and the housing factor 2.8 persons per house.

Deaths. 209 deaths were recorded during the year which gives a rate of 12.60 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 11.29. The death rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 11.7. In Section H Table No. 1 gives a classification of the causes of death and once again it will be seen that diseases of the Health and Circulatory system was by far the greatest cause of death, and accounted for 63.63% of deaths. Cancer accounted for 11.96% of deaths, respiratory diseases 11.00% and Tuberculosis (all forms) 0.47%. In the following table a comparison is shown between the death rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1947 to 1956 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rushden</i>				<i>County England & Wales</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>
1947	200	103	97	12.95	12.43	12.00
1948	184	95	89	11.27	11.00	10.80
1949	221	112	109	13.46	12.07	11.70
1950	222	108	114	13.48	12.01	11.60
1951	218	120	98	13.44	12.13	12.50
1952	204	97	98	12.55	11.04	11.3
1953	156	80	76	9.51	11.51	11.4
1954	187	101	86	11.30	11.04	11.3
1955	187	98	89	11.29	11.38	11.7
1956	209	109	100	12.60	*	11.7

Births. 221 births were registered, which is the same number as last year. The rate for the period was 13.32 for 1,000 of population compared with 13.34. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 15.7. The following table shows a comparison between the birth rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1951 to 1956 :

			Birth Rate, 1951-1956					
			1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Rushden ...	...	...	12.26	12.30	13.97	13.84	13.34	13.32
Administrative County...			15.57	15.5	16.16	16.2	15.49	*
England and Wales		...	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7

Stillbirths. Five stillbirths were recorded which is the same number as in the previous year. The rate per 1,000 of population was the same as in 1955, being 0.30. Further statistics will be found in Table No. 5, in Section H.

Illegitimate Births. Eight illegitimate births were registered which gives a rate of 36.19 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 45.24.

Maternal Mortality. For the second year in succession no deaths were recorded under this heading.

Infant Mortality. Two infant deaths occurred during the year which gives a rate of 9.04 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 31.67. Further statistics and information concerning infant deaths will be found in Tables No. 3 and 4 in Section H. The following table shows a comparison between the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the last five years :

Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.						
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Rushden	...	5.00(1)	8.73(2)	30.56(7)	31.67(7)	9.04(2)
Administrative						
County	...	24.96	24.70	23.49	20.79	*
England and						
Wales	...	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8

Neonatal Mortality. This is concerned with infant deaths which occur within 28 days of independent existence. One death was in this sub-division of the infant mortality figures. The rate per 1,000 live births was 4.52 compared with 13.57 for the previous year. The following table gives the rates per 1,000 live births of Infant deaths occurring within 28 days of birth :

Deaths under one month per 1,000 live births.							
		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Rushden	...	5.02(1)	5.00(1)	8.73(2)	26.20(6)	13.57(3)	4.52(1)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services. The area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and the Laboratory at Kettering General Hospital. To facilitate the area Kettering have a laboratory at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, to which specimens can be sent direct. The assistance received from Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss during the year was much appreciated.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. Stocks are kept in case of need by the General Practitioners at the following places :

Northampton General Hospital
Kettering General Hospital
Wellingborough Hospital
Rushden House Sanatorium.

The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for these supplies.

Ambulance Service. The County Council provides this service for the area.

Nursing in the Home and Home Helps. These services are provided by the County Council and the assistance received from the County Medical Officer with regard to the cases referred for Home Helps is much appreciated.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Wesleyan Church Rooms, Queen Street, on Wednesday afternoons.

Antenatal and Post-natal clinics are held at the same place at 9.30 a.m. each Thursday.

Hospital Accommodation. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board are responsible for the area and the following facilities are available :

General Hospitals—Northampton and Kettering.

Wellingborough Hospital—Gynaecological and children.

Wellingborough Park Hospital—Chronic sick, the aged and Old Persons in need of Care and Attention.

Further accommodation for such cases is provided at St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering, and Oundle.

A Maternity Block for Midwifery cases in the area is attached to the Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Rushden House Sanatorium—Tuberculosis.

Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton—Infectious Diseases.

The Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden, holds the following Out-patient Clinics :

Gynaecological	...	1st and 3rd Monday morning
		2nd and 4th Tuesday morning
Medical	... ..	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoon
Surgical	... ..	1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon
		2nd, 4th and 5th Friday morning
E.N.T.	... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday morning
		1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoon
Eyes	... ..	1st and 3rd Thursday morning
Orthoptist	... ..	Every Thursday morning and afternoon
Urological	... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon
Physiotherapy	...	Monday afternoons
Psychiatric	... ..	Every Friday afternoon
Skin	... ..	2nd and 4th Saturday morning
Paediatric	... ..	Wednesday mornings

National Assistance Act, 1948. It was found necessary to take action with regard to one case under Section 47 of this Act. A number of cases were visited and in some instances the persons were persuaded in their own interests to enter Park Hospital.

The Rushden Senior Citizens Goodwill Committee continue to carry out excellent work in the town with regard to the welfare of old folks. The chiropody service is working very efficiently and since its commencement over a thousand treatments including those to bed-ridden and infirm patients, have now been given. The District Nurses and Health Visitors have also carried out much good work for the old in the area.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Joint Water Board are responsible for the supply of water for the Urban District.

Source. The two chief sources of supply are Sywell reservoir and wells in the river gravels at Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston. Further sources are Earls Barton Gravel well and Springs at Grendon.

Treatment. Water is first filtered and then chlorinated before being pumped into the mains for distribution.

Quality of Water. A chemical analysis of a sample of water from Wollaston pumping station (treated) taken on 12th November, 1956, gave the following results :

(a) *Physical Examination*

Colour	...	...	...	Colourless (Haze 5.0)
Appearance	...	...	...	Slight deposit, faintly turbid
Smell	...	...	...	Odourless

(b) *General Chemical Examination*

							<i>parts per 100,000</i>
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	pH 7.5			
Free Carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.15
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0816
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0067
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitric Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Hardness (state test used, Clark) as CaCO ₃							
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.8
Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2
Permanganate figure (3 hours, 37°C	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0957
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.25
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	58.2
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	absent

(c) *Mineral Analysis*

Calcium, as Ca	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.8
Magnesium, as Mg	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.9

Sodium, as Na	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.9
Carbonate, as CO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.2
Chloride, as Cl	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.15
Sulphate, as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Nitrate, as NO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Iron ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Fluoride, as F	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05

Bacteriological Examination

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml developing at 37°C = nil

Number of micro-organisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

Microscopical Examination of Deposit : Mainly mineral matter.

Remarks

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a hard water containing an appreciable amount of organic matter though free from bacterial contamination. The fluoride content may be considered satisfactory.

I am of opinion that this water is safe for drinking purposes. It is however to be recommended that an effort be made to improve the appearance of this water.

Signed, S. GREENBURGH, 29th November, 1956.

A chemical analysis of a sample of water taken from Sywell (treated) on 12th November, 1956, gave the following results :

(a) *Physical Examination*

Colour	...	...	...	Colourless
Appearance	...	...	...	Slight deposit, faintly turbid
Smell	...	...	...	Odourless

(b) *General Chemical Examination*

						<i>parts per 100,000</i>
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	7.3		
Free Carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	...	...	...	...		0.32
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...		0.0612
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...		0.0108
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitric Nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Hardness (state test used, Clark) as CaCO ₃						
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	0.8
Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	11.5

Permanganate figure (3 hours, 37°C)	...	...	...	...	...	0.1369
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃...	...	...	...	...	...	8.0
Total Solids ...	...	...	...	...	...	26.4
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	...	...	absent
(c) <i>Mineral Analysis</i>						
Calcium, as Ca	...	...	...	...	...	4.6
Magnesium, as Mg	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Sodium, as Na	...	...	...	...	...	1.8
Carbonate, as CO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	4.6
Chloride, as Cl	...	...	...	...	...	2.4
Sulphate, as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
Nitrate, as NO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Iron ...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Fluoride, as F	...	...	...	...	...	0.05

Microscopical Examination of deposit : Mainly mineral matter.

Bacteriological Examination

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of micro-organisms per ml developing at 37 C = nil

Number of micro-organisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

Remarks

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample indicate a fairly soft water containing an appreciable amount of organic matter, though free from bacterial contamination. The fluoride content may be considered satisfactory.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes. More efficient filtration of the water is, however, to be recommended.

Signed, S. GREENBURGH, 29th November, 1956.

Bacteriological examination of samples of water :

Samples taken by the Board—41

Results, 35 Very Satisfactory ; 5 Satisfactory ; 1 Unsatisfactory.

Samples taken by the Health Department—21

Results, all Very Satisfactory.

Water Consumption, Rushden :

Total consumption for 1956	...	...	...	184,448,000
Trade purposes	...	...	...	26,256,000
Domestic	...	...	...	158,192,000

The total consumption for the year shows a decrease of 4,832,000 gallons compared with the previous year. This was brought about as follows :

Water consumption Trade showed a decrease of 9,716,000 gallons.

Water consumption Domestic showed an increase of 4,884,000 gallons.

The following table shows the consumption per head of population for Domestic and Trade purposes over the last five years :

			1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Domestic and Municipal							
Purposes	...	...	21·5	24·3	24·13	26·25	27·0
Trade Purposes	...	...	6·0	5·4	6·07	6·16	4·43
Total	...	...	27·5	29·7	30·20	32·41	31·43

Piped Supply. 5,741 houses in the area have a piped supply, which is an increase of 114 over the previous year. 23 houses in the area have not the Towns Mains supply. 93 houses are dependent on standpipes.

Number of Council houses connected to Towns mains, 1956—55.

Number of Private houses connected to Towns mains, 1956—46

The rainfall for the period 1949 to 1956 was :

			1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Rushden ...	...	...	18.51	25.31	27.80	25.01	18.64	28.44	18.69	22.83
Sywell ...	...	...	18.48	24.88	26.94	22.22	17.10	27.26	17.92	25.23

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage disposal works are situated off the Wellingborough Road on the outskirts of the town. The works are well screened from houses. The method adopted for treatment is as follows. Crude sewage on entering the works is first screened and large matter removed. It then passes into settlement tanks. Here organic matter should break down and settle, forming sludge. This sludge which settles on the bottom of the tanks is gravitated to sludge drying beds. A period of 14 hours is required for the passage of sewage through these tanks to allow for satisfactory settlement. At present this is not the case as the tanks are not of sufficient capacity to permit this. The effluent from these tanks passes to the primary filter beds. Here the effluent is sprinkled by rotary arms over the filter beds and percolates through the beds. Biological action takes place at this stage. The effluent is collected and passes to the secondary filter beds where the same process is repeated. The final effluent from the works is discharged into a brook which runs into the River Nene. These works are overloaded and a scheme has been submitted to the Ministry to deal with the situation. The Minister has approved, in principle, the scheme for improvements at the sewage works, subject to a number of amendments. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in the near future. Two samples of sewage were taken for chemical analysis on 19th September, 1956. The first sample was of crude sewage as it enters the

tanks and the second sample of the final effluent. An average sample of each was taken over a period of six hours. The results of the chemical analyses of these two samples were as follows :

The sample contained :				<i>Crude Sewage</i> <i>Parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Final effluent</i> <i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Suspended Solids	...	...	...	1930.0	6.45
Chloride	...	...	...	13.10	6.40
Ammonia (Free or Saline)	...	...	...	8.10	0.0540
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...	...	...	2.85	0.2180
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C.	...	...	...	33.48	3.5597
Oxygen absorbed in 3 minutes	...	...	...	13.90	1.3400
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F. (B.O.D.)	...	...	...	830.5	2.85
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	...	...	...	Absent	4.15
Tar Compounds	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Sulpheretted Hydrogen	...	...	...	Trace	Absent
Thiocyanates	...	...	...	Absent	Absent
Thiosulphates	...	...	...	Trace	Absent
Tannin	...	...	...	Trace	Absent
Oily Matter	...	...	...	950.0	Absent

Remarks, Crude Sewage. The sample is of a very strong sewage. The presence of oily matter may interfere with the sewage purification process.

Final Effluent. The figure obtained for suspended solids and B.O.D. exceed the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal (i.e., 3 parts per 100,000 and 2 parts per 100,000 respectively).

It is recommended that the quantity of this final effluent be improved before discharging it into a river.

The volume of sewage dealt with at the works during the year was as follows :

Total volume	...	...	...	...	354,560,575 gallons
Filtered	...	...	...	...	241,885,875 gallons
Storm	...	...	...	...	112,674,700 gallons
Average daily flow	...	...	...	...	968,744 gallons
Average daily flow (filtered)	...	...	...	...	660,890 gallons
Maximum storm flow (day)	...	...	...	...	3,550,405 gallons
Maximum filtered flow (day)	...	...	...	...	1,128,750 gallons

Sewers. Overloading of sewers occurs in certain parts of the town. Storm overflows for relief of sewers are situated along the course of a

brook that flows through the town. Under the present circumstances due to the fact that the sewers are already overloaded, these storm overflows come into action following the entry into the sewers of only small quantities of rainwater. This is unsatisfactory and causes gross pollution of the brook. A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry to deal with this problem by the construction of a pumping station and overflow chamber in Duck Street and of a line of new sewers.

The Court Estate. The sewage disposal plant to deal with houses on this estate is functioning satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation. The situation remains the same as reported in last year's annual report.

Disinfection. The Council maintain a disinfection centre. Steam under pressure is the method adopted. Disinfection of articles of clothing in connection with cases of infectious diseases was carried out during the year. Neighbouring authorities make use of this centre by arrangement. Disinfection of houses following cases of infectious diseases was carried out as necessary.

Swimming Baths. Water in the swimming baths is filtered and chlorinated with frequent changeover. The baths are maintained in a satisfactory manner. Samples of water taken from the swimming pool for bacteriological examination during the season were satisfactory.

Moveable Dwellings. The caravan site situated off the Bedford Road is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Rats and Mice, Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Details of the work carried out during the year will be found in the Senior Public Health Inspector's report.

Public Cleansing. The Council have a weekly collection of household refuse. Tipping is carried out on a site situated off the Bedford Road. Controlled tipping is carried out and the area is kept under observation by the Rodent Operator.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The number of houses built during the year in the area was as follows :

Number of Council houses built during the year	...	...	55
Number under construction at the end of the year	...	...	51
Number of private houses built during the year	...	...	46
Number of private houses under construction at the end of the year	...	...	36
Conversions—houses	...	...	2 flats over two shops 4 flats in 2 houses
Number of Council houses completed at end of 1956	...	...	755

Slum Clearance. An official representation was made to the Council during the year concerning one area comprising twenty-one houses. The order was confirmed by the Ministry and as no objections were received no inquiry was held. Ten houses were dealt with under Section II of the Housing Act and Closing Orders made. The situations of these houses were as follows :

Duck Street	...	...	3 houses
Woburn Place	...	...	1 house
Little Street	...	...	2 houses
Bedford Road	...	...	4 houses

Housing Applications. On 31st December, 1956, there were 270 applicants for Council houses. This number excludes 70 applicants for Old Persons dwellings. 150 applicants have been on the Council's housing list for a period of longer than 12 months. An analysis of these 150 applications is as follows :

	<i>No</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3 or more</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>children</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>children</i>	
Applicants in rooms	40	17	9	2	68
Tenants	27	24	16	10	77
Occupying caravans	2	1	—	—	3
Occupying married quarters	—	1	1	—	2
Total	69	43	26	12	150

Many house inspections were made during the year and reports furnished to the Housing Department on housing conditions and health factors involved. I appreciate the consideration given to such cases by the Housing Committee.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food premises. Routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year. Further information concerning this important work will be found in the second part of this report.

Milk Supply. 71 milk samples were taken during the year for examination with regard to keeping qualities. The results of these samples were as follows :

<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
64	5	2

Tests carried out—Phosphatase and Methylene Blue.

Pasteurised Milk. No. of samples : 58

<i>Test</i>		<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
Phosphatase ...	...	57	1	—
Methylene Blue	...	51	5	2

These results must be considered satisfactory.

Washed Milk Bottle Rinses.

Washed bottles :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
19	19	18	1

These results are very satisfactory.

It is important that members of the public should help the milk industry by returning milk bottles after use in a clean condition.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream. There are 66 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. This is one more than in the previous year.

<i>No. of premises registered</i>	<i>Bulk ice-cream</i>	<i>Cold mix</i>	<i>Pre-packed</i>	<i>Manufacture of ice lollies</i>
66	1	4	60	1

Samples. 16 samples were taken during the season and the results were as follows :

<i>Total</i>	<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
16	13	2	1	Nil

These results are satisfactory.

Four samples of ice lollies were examined and gave the following results.

<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
4	Nil

Meat Inspection. Full details of meat inspection carried out during the year will be found in the Senior Public Health Inspector's report. This is a very important service rendered to the public and I am pleased to say that a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption is carried out.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox. There have been no cases for many years.

Vaccination. The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	66	5	4	11	18	104
Re-vaccination	—	—	2	4	15	21
						125

The figures for 1955 were :

Primary	69	1	3	5	15	93
Re-vaccination	—	—	2	3	20	25
						118

Once again the number of vaccinations carried out during the year showed an increase which is pleasing to note. Still there is room for further improvement and the best age for primary vaccination is 3 months.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. No cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever. Six cases were notified compared with fifteen in the previous year. Cases continue to be of a mild nature and no cases were removed to hospital.

Diphtheria. One case of Diphtheria occurred in an adult during the year. Immediate action was taken and the case removed to hospital. All contacts were swabbed and kept under observation. No further cases occurred. It was interesting to note that the contacts of this case had been immunised against Diphtheria and this undoubtedly was the reason why there were no further cases. This is the first case in the area for a period of 11 years.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. The following numbers of children were immunised during the year :

		<i>Under</i>							<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
		1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14		
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	70
Combined Diphtheria-										
and Pertussis	...	89	18	15	1	1	5	—	129	29
Total	...	89	18	15	1	1	8	—	132	99
Whooping Cough only		—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	

The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation :

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1956								
Age at 31:12:56 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5 to 9 1947-1951	10 to 14 1942-1946	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number <i>Immunised</i>	24	97	129	119	128	858	1012	2367

Measles. There were 41 cases of measles during the year compared with 574 in the previous year. The majority of cases occurred in January and were part of the epidemic which occurred in 1955.

Whooping Cough. One case was notified. There were no cases in the previous year.

Puerperal Pyrexia. No cases were notified for the second year in succession.

Pneumonia. Fourteen cases were notified which is the same number as in the previous year. Fourteen deaths were recorded giving pneumonia as one of the contributory causes. In the previous year there were eleven deaths.

Influenza. For the fourth year in succession no deaths were recorded from this cause.

Erysipelas. Two cases were notified which is the same number as for the previous year.

Poliomyelitis. One case was notified in an adult. In the previous year there were six cases. The case was removed to hospital.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. In 1956 a vaccine against poliomyelitis was produced in a British laboratory. This followed the production of the Salk Vaccine in America. The British vaccine differs

slightly from the Salk Vaccine in that one of the viruses Type L Mahoney is not included. The vaccine consists of different strains of virus which are killed and extensive tests are carried out before the vaccine is used to see that it is perfectly safe. This has led to rather slow production, but these precautionary steps are in the interest of the community. It was unfortunate that the introduction of this vaccine should have been accompanied by so much controversy in the National Press. However, the scheme for vaccination of children between 2 years and 10 years has gone ahead with increasing popularity. This vaccine is the first step in a campaign against poliomyelitis and although only small quantities were available during the year the number of children vaccinated in recent months has risen very considerably.

The Poliomyelitis Vaccination figures for 1956 were :

Age :	2	3	4	5-9	<i>Total</i>
	12	4	9	34	59

The vaccine is given intra-muscularly in two doses each of 1 c.c. at monthly intervals and the left upper arm is the site recommended.

Tuberculosis. Six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. This is the same number as in the previous year. Four of these cases were pulmonary infections, all in males, and the remaining two cases were of non-pulmonary tuberculosis—one male and one female. It is interesting to note from Table No. 7 that most of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the older age groups. One death was recorded from pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no deaths from this cause in the previous year. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) notified during the last sixteen years was as follows :

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
21	20	18	17	31	15	18	11	16	18	10	14	12
			1954	1955	1956							
			18	6	6							

From this table it will be seen that the number of new cases for the second year remains at a satisfactory low level.

The mortality rate from Tuberculosis for the same period was :

1941-1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tuberculosis—all forms</i>			<i>Rate (crude) per 1,000 of population</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rushden</i>	<i>County</i>
1941	10	4	14	·79	·50
1942	4	4	8	·48	·49
1943	2	3	5	·32	·50
1944	4	7	11	·72	·62
1945	5	1	6	·43	·58
1946	7	3	10	·65	·45
1947	7	2	9	·58	·36
1948	4	2	6	·36	·42
1949	5	4	9	·54	·43
1950	1	2	3	·18	·30
1951	3	1	4	·24	·26
1952	8	2	10	·61	·25
1953	3	—	3	·18	·18
1954	1	—	1	·06	·12
1955	—	—	—	—	·09
1956	1	—	1	·06	*

On 31st December, 1956, the number of names on the Tuberculosis register was as follows :

Total Number 117		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	55	30	85
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	14	18	32

Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. This Committee continues to carry out its excellent work in the area.

Food Poisoning. One case occurred compared with two in the previous year.

Dysentery. No case was notified compared with 14 in the previous year.

Typhoid Fever. One case was notified during the year. This was by no means a typical case, but all the necessary precautions were taken and no further cases occurred. During the year it was reported that Typhoid bacilli were found in the bile associated with a case of cholecystectomy. There was a slender line of connection between these cases.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

There are 146 factories on the register for the area. Thirty-eight visits were made and seven written notices served during the year. These notices were in connection with want of cleanliness or unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences. The seven cases were referred by H.M. Inspector of factories.

In the August list there were 150 outworkers registered.

Factories in which mechanical power is not used, no complaints were received with regard to lack of ventilation, cleanliness or drainage. Further details concerning this section will be found in the Senior Public Health Inspector's report.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE NO. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	3	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	6	17
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	18	37
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	10	30
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	8	11
20. Other heart disease	22	24	46
21. Other circulatory disease	2	7	9
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	10	4	14
24. Bronchitis	4	5	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1
34. All other accidents	2	5	7
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1
	109	100	209

TABLE No. 2.

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES, 1929-1956.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1929	—	—	12	0.85	21	1.49	39	2.76	9	0.64
1930	1	0.08	7	0.49	11	0.78	38	2.71	16	1.14
1931	—	—	10	0.70	17	1.18	47	3.29	23	1.61
1932	1	0.07	10	0.70	10	0.70	48	3.37	18	1.26
1933	2	0.13	14	0.97	20	1.39	53	3.69	9	0.62
1934	1	0.07	10	0.69	22	1.52	81	5.62	9	0.62
1935	6	0.41	5	0.34	16	1.09	51	3.50	12	0.82
1936	3	0.20	9	0.61	18	1.22	66	4.47	12	0.81
1937	—	—	4	0.26	21	1.41	68	4.56	10	0.67
1938	—	—	10	0.66	23	1.52	69	4.57	7	0.46
1939	1	0.06	11	0.70	23	1.46	57	3.63	9	0.57
1940	3	0.17	10	0.60	32	1.92	78	4.69	23	1.38
1941	1	0.06	13	0.52	32	1.81	79	4.48	26	1.47
1942	1	0.06	7	0.43	28	1.72	72	4.42	13	0.80
1943	—	—	5	0.32	32	2.00	51	3.29	20	1.29
1944	4	0.26	7	0.46	22	1.45	101	6.66	22	1.45
1945	2	0.14	4	0.28	24	1.76	101	7.17	9	0.63
1946	3	0.19	7	0.46	29	1.90	106	6.31	18	1.18
1947	1	0.06	8	0.51	15	0.97	115	7.44	17	1.10
1948	—	—	6	0.36	30	1.83	95	5.82	16	0.98
1949	2	0.12	7	0.42	31	1.88	123	7.49	23	1.40
1950	—	—	3	0.18	34	2.06	117	7.10	26	1.57
1951	1	0.06	3	0.18	26	1.60	93	5.73	24	1.47
1952	2	0.12	8	0.49	41	2.52	102	6.27	17	1.04
1953	—	—	3	0.18	28	1.70	85	5.18	16	0.97
1954	—	—	1	0.06	29	1.75	110	6.65	19	1.14
1955	—	—	—	—	28	1.69	108	6.52	18	1.08
1956	—	—	1	0.06	25	1.50	133	8.02	23	1.38

TABLE No. 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR—1956.

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Age in weeks</i>					
	—1	—2	—3	—4	5-52	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia and Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maemolytic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	2
TOTALS	1	—	—	—	1	2

TABLE No. 4.

DEATH AND BIRTH RATES FOR 1899-1956.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Net Births		Net Deaths belonging to District			
		No.	Rate per 1,000	Under 1 year		At all Ages	
				No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1899	12,245	463	37.8	49	105.8	145	11.8
1900	14,359	434	30.2	65	149.0	153	10.6
1901	12,453	424	33.6	46	108.4	123	9.7
1902	12,961	407	31.4	50	122.8	133	10.2
1903	13,337	404	30.2	37	91.5	139	10.4
1904	13,713	387	28.2	46	118.8	162	11.8
1905	14,089	328	23.2	36	109.7	119	8.4
1906	14,190	351	24.7	40	113.9	122	8.5
1907	14,816	315	21.2	25	79.3	131	8.1
1908	15,192	310	20.4	35	112.9	122	8.0
1909	15,817	284	17.9	31	109.1	130	8.2
1910	16,442	278	16.9	20	71.9	128	7.7
1911	13,377	281	21.0	29	103.2	130	9.7
1912	13,658	287	21.0	24	83.6	121	8.8
1913	13,752	237	17.2	19	80.1	118	8.7
1914	13,915	246	17.6	18	73.1	124	8.9
1915	13,787	277	19.9	30	108.3	145	10.5
1916	13,531*	256	17.3	15	58.5	138	10.1
1917	12,315*	200	14.5	12	60.0	123	9.9
	13,728†						
	14,722†						
1918	12,900*	158	12.7	8	43.2	129	10.0
	14,454†						
1919	13,850*	206	14.2	27	131.0	153	11.0
	14,428†						
1920	14,402	328	22.7	24	73.1	133	9.2
1921	13,720	273	19.8	22	80.5	147	10.7
1922	13,740	247	17.9	19	76.9	132	9.6
1923	13,790	243	17.6	12	49.3	131	9.4
1924	13,750	198	14.4	11	55.5	135	9.8
1925	13,780	211	15.3	13	61.6	138	10.0
1926	13,520	208	15.3	6	28.8	131	9.7
1927	13,550	174	12.8	10	57.4	139	10.2
1928	13,650	174	12.0	10	57.4	146	10.6
1929	14,020	174	12.4	9	51.7	127	9.0
1930	14,020	191	13.6	7	36.6	121	8.6
1931	14,280	161	11.3	8	49.7	154	10.8
1932	14,240	170	11.9	10	58.8	142	9.9
1933	14,370	168	11.7	7	47.6	159	11.1
1934	14,410	161	11.2	8	49.7	180	12.5
1935	14,550	176	12.1	15	85.2	155	10.7
1936	14,740	182	12.3	5	27.5	167	11.3
1937	14,890	191	12.9	6	31.4	155	10.4
1938	15,090	192	12.7	6	31.3	160	10.6
1939	15,690*	225	14.2	6	26.7	152	9.7
	15,200†						
1940	16,580	200	12.4	16	77.7	233	14.1
1941	17,600	193	10.9	11	54.1	185	10.5
1942	16,250	251	15.5	6	23.9	163	10.0
1943	15,490	281	18.1	8	28.4	172	11.1
1944	15,140	278	18.4	15	53.9	202	13.3
1945	14,070	282	20.0	14	49.6	176	12.6
1946	15,210	270	17.74	9	33.33	215	14.13
1947	15,440	308	19.94	8	25.97	200	12.95
1948	16,320	283	17.34	9	31.80	184	11.27
1949	16,410	219	13.34	3	13.69	221	13.46
1950	16,460	227	13.79	10	44.05	222	13.48
1951	16,220	199	12.26	1	5.02	218	13.44
1952	16,250	200	12.30	1	5.00	204	12.55
1953	16,390	229	13.97	2	8.73	156	9.51
1954	16,540	229	13.84	7	30.56	187	11.30
1955	16,560	221	13.34	7	31.67	187	11.29
1956	16,580	221	13.32	2	9.04	209	12.60

(*) Estimated population for calculation of Birth Rates.

(†) Estimated population for calculation of Death Rates.

TABLE No. 5.

**COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS
AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.
1934-56.**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stillbirths per 1,000.</i>		<i>Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births.</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 live female births.</i>
	<i>Population of all ages.</i>	<i>Total births (live and still).</i>		
1934	0.55	47.32	49.69	1038
1935	0.76	58.83	39.77	934
1936	0.27	21.51	54.94	1166
1937	0.27	20.51	26.18	1010
1938	0.26	20.41	52.30	1087
1939	0.51	34.34	48.89	1008
1940	0.42	33.89	25.00	923
1941	0.51	44.54	56.99	1144
1942	0.31	19.54	75.70	1002
1943	0.89	47.45	53.46	1006
1944	0.55	32.05	133.09	1122
1945	0.21	20.83	95.74	1389
1946	0.39	21.73	55.55	1368
1947	0.38	25.47	32.46	1013
1948	0.61	34.12	42.40	1035
1949	0.12	9.04	36.52	1126
1950	0.30	21.55	30.83	1026
1951	0.18	14.85	35.17	809
1952	0.12	9.90	50.00	1000
1953	0.61	41.84	43.66	1385
1954	0.18	12.93	69.86	1063
1955	0.30	22.12	45.24	1046
1956	0.30	22.12	36.19	1302

TABLE No. 6.

**MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.**

<i>Age Periods</i>			<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
— 6 months	...		—	—	—	—
—12 "	...		3	2	—	—
—18 "	...		4	1	—	—
— 2 years	...		1	2	—	—
—2½ "	...		1	2	—	—
— 3 "	...		—	—	—	—
— 4 "	...		4	2	1	—
— 5 "	...		5	4	—	—
—10 "	...		4	2	—	—
—15 "	...		—	3	—	—
15 "+	...		1	—	—	—
ALL AGES	...	...	23	18	1	—
TOTALS	...	...	41		1	

TABLE No. 7

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1956.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	—

TABLE No. 8.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis). 1956.

Disease	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65 +	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	2	5	3	14	—	14
Measles ...	5	8	3	6	9	6	3	1	—	—	—	—	41	2	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	5	8	3	7	13	10	5	2	1	2	9	3	68	5	14

TABLE No. 9.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis). 1956.

DISEASE	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Pneumonia ...	1	9	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	14
Measles ...	36	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	41
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ...	38	12	2	3	2	5	1	—	1	—	2	2	68

TABLE No. 10.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act,
1937 and 1948, for the year 1956.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	139	34	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	146	38	7	Nil.

2.—Cases in which **defects** were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	4	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	4	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	8	—	7	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc.	141	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys... ..	9	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	150	—	—	—	—	—

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1956



H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector's Department

STAFF, 1956

Senior Public Health Inspector :
H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :
B. HALL, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Pupil :
Post Vacant.

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :
Mrs. P. Danczyk.

Outside Staff :
W. West—*Disinfector and General Labourer*
R. Butler—*Rodent Operator*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Buildings,
Rushden.

July, 1957.

To The Madam Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Rushden

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the environmental circumstances for the year 1956.

Legislation was again in evidence during 1956, in the shape of the Clean Air Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations which became operative from the 1st January ; both will provide the local authority with important powers in the field of public health.

The Clean Air Act will operate in stages and the Council will be able to assess the size of the problem and the industrialist will have time to improve his plant before the appointed day.

With the increased responsibilities resulting from new legislation, the rising tempo of meat inspection duties, the slum clearance programme, it was found impossible to deal with all commitments, and the only solution was to deal with one subject at one time.

Considering the shortage of Public Health Officers, the resignation of the Additional Public Health Inspector in November only served to aggravate the difficulties facing the Health Department, and it is hoped that something will be done to step up recruitment to the profession.

Full details of the work of the Department will be found in the text which follows, and I am indebted to Mrs. P. Danczyk for help in compiling this report.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support throughout the year, and Dr. P. X. Bermingham, whose advice and encouragement are given generously on all occasions.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

PART I.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

1. Visits and Inspections.

Houses—

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	945
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Rats and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	522
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories, with power	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Factories, without power	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—P.H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Meat and Foods—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	738
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manf. or prep. of preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Restaurant and Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits <i>re</i> Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Milk Bottles and Churn Rinses Sampled	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Water Samples Taken—Main	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Interviews at Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	405
Callers	104
Ice-cream Samples Taken	16

TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	4,381
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Notices Served—

P.H. Acts (Informal)	197
P.H. Acts (Statutory)	1
H. Acts (Informal)	18
Factories Act	3
Food and Drugs Act	2

TOTAL NOTICES SERVED	221
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NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

Year ended December, 1956

Houses—

Roofs Repaired or Renewed	12
Walls (External) Repointed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wall Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Interior Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Additional Ventilation Provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coal sheds provided	...	...	...	...	...	2

Drainage—

Drains Cleared of Obstruction	...	...	...	...	...	98
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	197
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	141
Vent Pipes or F.A.I.'s Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
New Gullies Provided	...	...	...	...	...	50
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	167
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	...	...	...	49
Cesspools Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	22

Water Closets—

New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	...	57
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7

Miscellaneous—

Dustbins—New provided	...	...	...	...	...	129
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises Cleared—Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	503

Contraventions Remedied In—

Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises Generally	...	...	...	...	...	5
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	3

TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED	1,558
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

2. Drainage and Sanitation.

Court Estate. The Court Estate sewerage scheme, commenced in 1955, is now complete.

Most of the house connecting drains were laid during one of the wettest summers on record, making for appalling conditions, inconvenient to householders and dangerous for contractors. One workman narrowly escaped suffocation when a ten foot deep trench collapsed.

Inspection and testing of drainage works for this scheme occupied a great deal of time for the Health Department, both inside and outside office hours.

Wellingborough Road. Water services were provided for the Wellingborough Road industrial site, tending to aggravate the problem

of sewage disposal. At least two factories carried out extension works, and the Council would be well advised to keep a watchful eye on development and keep in mind the need for sewerage this area.

Brook in Spencer Park. As part of the Medical Officer's precautions against the spread of poliomyelitis, a survey of the brook was carried out. The Medical Officer recommended that fencing be erected in Spencer Park to prevent access by children, and this work was completed during November.

A major pollution, discovered during the survey, was only stopped after three weeks excavating, when several defects were found on a combined drainage system serving two houses and two factories. These defects were allowing crude sewage and factory wastes to be discharged direct to the brook via a surface water drain running for part of its length below and parallel to the foul system.

An old-standing nuisance was abated by the construction of a sewage system for a dairy farm on the Newton Road. The scheme involved automatic pumping of sewage away from the road side of the farm to a filter bed on the other side of the hill. The Nene River Board Inspector made visits during the construction and submitted his observations.

Three hundred and seventy-one inspections were made on routine drainage works, and tests were carried out on 188 occasions. Eighteen schemes warranted the submission of drainage plans.

Nine combined drainage systems were found defective and the Surveyor was supplied with the necessary details in order to arrange the execution of the work under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

3. Refuse Collection.

The service was generally satisfactory and a weekly collection maintained. For various reasons, difficulties were encountered in the collection of salvage from commercial premises and the clearing of litter from the streets is a growing problem which will have to be met. The growing consciousness of food hygiene has increased the number of wrapped products, the wrappings being discarded indiscriminately after purchase.

Replacement of dustbins again amounted to 2½% of the total number, assuring a high standard. Every property in the town is provided with at least one regulation dustbin.

The municipal dustbin scheme continued to function smoothly ; the number of owners electing to join this scheme increased one hundred per cent compared with 1955.

Supplied by owners	47
Purchased outright from the Council	13
Supplied by the Council at an annual charge of 5/-	83
	<hr/>
Total	143
	<hr/>

4. Disinfestations and Disinfections.

Routine disinfections were carried out at the disinfection station. The plant is kept in good order, and the only repairs required during the year was a set of new fire bars for the boiler.

No cases of bed bug infestations were discovered, although it was found necessary to deal with three filthy houses. One of these houses was tenanted by an old person who virtually barricaded the premises and would not allow any official inspection. When this person was removed to hospital, the premises were cleansed by the Council workmen.

Disinfection Table

		<i>Rooms</i>	<i>Articles of Bedding</i>	<i>Articles of Clothing</i>	<i>Books</i>
After infectious disease ...	...	19	55	1	23
Private requests ...	...	16	16		
Wellingborough U.D.C.	...		106		
Articles destroyed ...	...		35	4	
		35	212	5	23

Amount recoverable : £18/19/6.

5. Rodent Control.

The services of the Rodent Operator were again in great demand. Over two thousand properties were surveyed or inspected and 408 properties were actually treated during the year. Contracts with eleven factories were carried out, and appreciation of this service has resulted in the contracts being renewed each year since the inception of the scheme.

The Department also co-operated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in a countrywide rick survey, when the Rodent Operator attended for a whole day at the threshing operations on a farm at Newton Road, to record the numbers of rats and mice killed during these operations.

The treatment of the sewers was carried out in three stages, and the sewers in the following areas were found to be infested.

- Station Road/Moor Road.
- Washbrook Road/Oakley Road.
- Wellingborough Road/Gordon Street.
- Westfield Avenue/The Crescent.
- Washbrook Road/Windmill Road.
- High Street South/Harborough Road.

The number of rodents killed is an estimated figure based on the amount of poison devoured, supported by carcasses recovered from the various premises.

The figures for 1956 are set down below.

		<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Estimated kill ...	...	1,886	2,208
Bodies picked up	...	467	117

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following report for 1956 was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	27	5,573	970	6,570	16
II. Number of properties inspected as result of :					
(a) Notification	1	310	25	336	3
(b) Survey	12	1,489	122	1,623	1
(c) Otherwise	3	40	14	57	
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	25	2,057	211	2,293	6
IV. Number of properties inspected found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major	2			2	
{ Minor	2	297	34	333	
(b) Mice		35	38	73	
V. Number of infested properties treated by L.A.	4	332	72	408	
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	10	397	153	560	

Number of " block " control schemes carried out—16.

6. Moveable Dwellings.

The licensed caravan site at Bedford Road was inspected on several occasions during the year ; the number of occupied caravans averaged forty, and the site was maintained in its usual satisfactory condition.

Four individual caravans parked in the district but moved before the expiration of forty-two days.

Gypsies were again the cause of many complaints. One unwise owner of a field in Newton Road gave permission for the parking of two gypsy caravans for two or three days, and these people refused to move out when the owner was notified of his responsibilities under the Public Health Act, 1936. The police were asked for assistance but could do little under the circumstances, and eventually, the owner was able to hire transport to tow the offending caravans from his land.

A licence was issued in respect of one caravan in Newton Road in a case where the applicants had been rendered homeless.

7. Factories and Workshops.

There were 146 factories and workshops on the register at the end of December, 1956. No special period was set aside for routine inspection, but 38 visits were made on notifications from the Factory Inspector in conjunction with inspections under the Public Health Acts. Seven written notices were sent to managements concerning dirty or defective sanitary accommodation under the Factories Acts 1937-48.

The table showing inspections and defects remedied will be found on page 34 of the Medical Officer's report.

8. Pet Animals Act, 1951.

One licence was issued under the Act for the keeping of a pet shop and this is the only licence in force. Two other licences, expiring in December, 1956, were not renewed.

9. Swimming Pool.

Ten routine samples of water from the swimming pool were taken during the season. All results were reported satisfactory.

10. Rushden Fair—Spencer Park.

Inspection of the arrangements made by Messrs. Thurston for the annual fair was carried out during September, and the standard of hygiene in the food vans was satisfactory. The Council co-operated once again in arranging for the disposal of refuse and sewage, and the site was vacated leaving no trace of rubbish. The improved sanitary arrangements have been in practice since 1953.

11. Clean Air Act, 1956.

This act was passed in July, 1956, and will come into operation on the appointed day. Different days will be appointed for different purposes, and it is hoped to be able to deal with several nuisances from smoke emission from certain factory premises as these appointed days become due.

One factory was the subject of several visits, and on one occasion a wide area around the premises was covered with soot and grit to a depth of half an inch. Negotiations were proceeding to convert the plant to oil firing, but a setback was received when the Suez crisis necessitated the rationing of fuel oil.

12. Cesspool Emptying.

The following summary gives an indication of the work carried out during 1956 :

Cesspools emptied within the Urban District ...	179
Cesspools emptied outside the Urban District	36
	<hr/>
Total	215
	<hr/>

In addition, the machine was loaned to adjoining local authorities for 479½ hours.

PART 2.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk and Dairies.

The number of milk purveyors on the register at the end of December, 1956, was eight.

There are no producer-retailers on the register and only one trader sells raw milk.

All milk sold in the Rushden area is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested, but the supplies originate from outside the district. Summerfield's dairy has now been transferred to Irthlingborough and the other small pasteurising plant has closed down, the owner obtaining milk from outside the district.

With the exception of one small dairy bottling T.T. milk, no milk is bottled or processed in the town.

Eight pasteurised, five T.T. and six sterilised licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders 1936-49.

Examination of Milk

Seventy-one samples were taken for examination by the prescribed tests carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The results were extremely satisfactory, the analyses of the 1956 samples being as follows :

92.8% satisfactory
7.2% unsatisfactory

		Milk Samples				
<i>Month</i>		<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
January	...	6	6	6	—	—
February	...	6	6	6	—	—
March	...	6	6	6	—	—
April	...	6	6	6	—	—
May	...	6	6	4	—	2
June	...	6	6	5	1	—
July	...	6	6	5	1	—
August	...	5	5	5	—	—
September	...	6	6	5	1	—
October	...	6	6	4	2	—
November	...	6	6	6	—	—
December	...	6	6	6	—	—
Totals	...	71	71	64	5	2

Pasteurised Milk.

Fifty-eight samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the prescribed Phosphatase test, with the following results :

<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Test</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Test invalid</i>
58	Methylene Blue	51	5	2
	Phosphatase	57	1	

Washed Milk Bottles.

With the concentration of the dairy trade it was only possible to take samples from three dairies, and two of these discontinued bottling milk in the last quarter of the year.

Nineteen samples were taken and only one failed the prescribed test. This method of control has provided an important check on cleanliness in the dairy over the past ten years and, in view of the change in the dairy trade, it will only be necessary to continue taking samples from one small dairy.

Washed Milk Bottles					
<i>Month</i>		<i>No. Samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
January	...	3	3	3	—
February	...	3	3	3	—
March	...	3	3	3	—
April	...	3	3	3	—
May	...	2	2	2	—
June	...	2	2	2	—
July	...	2	2	2	—
August	...	—	—	—	—
September	...	1	1	—	1
October	...	—	—	—	—
November	...	—	—	—	—
December	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		19	19	18	1

2. Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream.

The ice-cream trade showed no change. The state of the register at the end of 1956 was as follows :

Cold mix manufacturers	...	...	...	4
Sellers of bulk ice-cream	...	...	...	1
Sellers of pre-packed ice-cream	...	...	...	60
Manufacturer of ice-lollies	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	66

<i>Brands</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	Ice-Cream Samples			
		<i>Grade 1 Good</i>	<i>Grade 2 Fairly Good</i>	<i>Grade 3 Bad</i>	<i>Grade 4 Very Bad</i>
A	3	3	—	—	—
B	3	3	—	—	—
C	2	—	1	1	—
D	3	3	—	—	—
E	3	2	1	—	—
F	2	2	—	—	—
Totals	16	13	2	1	—

Ice-Lollies		
A	1	Satisfactory
B	1	Satisfactory
C	1	Satisfactory
D	1	Satisfactory

One complaint was received concerning an insect embedded in an iced-lolly. The manufacturer was approached and advised on methods of screening the windows to prevent the entry of wasps and flies.

3. Food and Drugs Act 1938-55.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation in January, 1956, but it was not possible to make a special effort to implement these regulations. When it is remembered that more than fifty per cent of one officer's time was taken up with meat inspection, and that many inspections were carried out for the purposes of slum clearance, little time was left to embark upon a special survey, after dealing with the ordinary routine work.

Efforts were centred on seeing that new premises complied with the Regulations, and on properties where there was obvious need for improvement. The owners of one new property were refused registration under Section 16 for the manufacture of sausages, after the architects had been warned during construction that some provision should be made. The action of the officer was confirmed by a sub-committee which visited the premises.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, photographs of a self service store and a factory canteen were taken and preserved as a record for a library maintained by the Ministry. It can be considered an honour for the district that Rushden was chosen to supply these records.

In accordance with the request from the Ministry of Health, the following information is made available.

Food Premises					
<i>Type</i>					<i>Number</i>
Butchers	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	8
Grocers	...	...	...	...	79
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	17
Cafés	...	...	...	...	6

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 16, is 27.

In 1952 a clean food campaign was organised by the Health Department and a series of film shows and lectures were given to organisations throughout the winter. It was estimated that in the twelve organisations addressed, more than one thousand persons attended these lectures, and it was noticeable for some time afterwards that the public were more food hygiene conscious.

Attempts were made to hold courses for food trade employees and canteen staffs, but when all the preliminary work had been completed, it was found difficult to get this class of person mobilised into classes at convenient times.

No further work was carried out in this sphere.

Meat and Food Inspection

There are two slaughterhouses operating in the area. Bedford Road abattoir is operated by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and supplies meat to the local co-operative societies over a large area. The small private slaughterhouse, operated by Mr. Strickland, caters for one or two butchers as well as himself.

Slaughtering at both premises has increased considerably, and the total number of animals killed was 19,291, an increase of nearly four thousand on the previous year.

The quality of the animals admitted for slaughter showed a decided improvement, and only 126 cows were killed. These fat cows are mostly sent for manufacture.

The percentages of bovine animals affected by tuberculosis showed a slight reduction, but it is too early to state that this reflects a general trend, as figures for the last eleven years have included large numbers of cows submitted for slaughter under the Government's control and rationing scheme. However, in the case of pigs the sex of the animal does not bear so much weight, and there is a general trend towards a reduction in the percentage of these animals affected with tuberculosis.

Cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* increased by nearly one hundred per cent, the affected carcasses all being despatched to the Northampton Cold Stores for treatment. Attempts have been made to trace the farms from which the animals originated, but with little success. In only one case was the farm traced on which the animal was bred and the Public Health Inspector in that area notified, so that he could check for sewage pollution of the grazings.

It was established that some of the animals came from farms adjoining the river Nene, and it raises suspicion that the polluted river may be responsible for such infestations, as these rich grazing lands are subject to flooding after heavy rains.

Fifty visits were made to shops, warehouses and stores to inspect various foodstuffs, more than one ton of which was declared unfit for human consumption and was destroyed.

All food of this type is taken to the Council's tip and buried under the refuse.

Two of these parcels deserve special mention. In one case six hundredweights of bananas were condemned by reason of decomposition, having been exposed to the heavy frosts of January, 1956. The other case, almost one quarter of a ton of mixed groceries, were surrendered by an owner taking over a general store.

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out.

UNSOUND FOOD

Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	250 tins
Fruit pudding	...	...	...	...	...	18 tins
Tomato juice	...	...	...	...	...	46 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	133 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	120 tins
Baked beans	...	...	...	...	...	17 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	57 tins
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Meat paste	...	...	...	...	...	27 jars
Fish paste	...	...	...	...	...	128 jars
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	202½ lbs.
Chocolates	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Marzipan	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Ground ginger	...	...	...	...	...	2¼ lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	66 jars
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	42 tins
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	26 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	128 tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	121½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	21 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	68½ lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Bananas	...	...	...	...	...	6 cwts.

The total weight being : 1 ton 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. 4 ozs.

Cysticercus Bovis

<i>No. of animals affected</i>	<i>No. showing head lesions</i>	<i>No. showing heart lesions</i>	<i>No. showing diaphragm lesions</i>	<i>No. affected in other locations</i>
33	33	5	1	<i>Nil.</i>
Number of visits to the Abattoir	...	...	...	759
Number of casualties admitted	...	...	...	59

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
January to December, 1956

	Bulls	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected ...	7	126	1,660	1,784	100	9,463	6,151
TUBERCULOSIS							
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...		6	1	3	1	—	—
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...		14	130	113	—	—	122
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS ...		20	131	116	1	—	122
3. Percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...		15.8%	7.8%	6.5%	1.0%	—	1.9%
4. General incidence Adult Bovine	7.4%						
OTHER DISEASES							
Specific disease other than T.B. causing condemnation of the whole carcase							
Emaciation ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Fever-Acute ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Immaturity ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joint Ill ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mastitis (including septic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Peritonitis—septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—including Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septæcaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Swine Erysipelas—Acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Metritis—Septic ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tumours ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Toxaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Decomposition ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	2	—	1	3	9	10

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected ... 19,291

Total number of whole carcasses condemned ... 36

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned

	TUBERCULOSIS				OTHER DISEASES			
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcase Meat ...	3	14	2	10	1	12	2	12
Offal ...	2	8	0	21	6	6	0	7
	6	2	3	3	7	18	2	19

TOTAL WEIGHT ... 14 Tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lbs.

PART 3.

HOUSING.

The second phase of the Council's five year programme was completed when 31 houses were dealt with during the year.

One Clearance Area was declared in respect of 21 houses in South Terrace to which no objections were received. The Ministry confirmed the Order in December, 1956.

To prevent re-occupation, 10 houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. This action was taken in conjunction with the Housing Committee, so that the re-housing programme is closely linked with the programme outlined by the Health Committee for the clearance of unfit houses.

Many visits were made to houses where the tenants quoted living conditions as a support for an application for a Council house tenancy. The Housing and Health Departments exchange full information on these cases and co-operate to assist the smooth working of the points scheme.

Houses-let-in-lodgings.

Two properties of this type were inspected and in both cases the owners were persuaded to reduce the number of tenancies. One owner reduced the number of tenants from six to four and the other owner undertook to restrict the use of the premises to two families.

One hundred and thirty-nine visits were made for the purpose of slum clearance and 22 houses were made fit after service of informal notices.

